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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/800,386

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Takahiro Saito

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8854

7590

12/02/2004

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EXAMINER

CAPUTO, LISA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2876

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/800,386

Applicant(s)

SAITO, TAKAHIRO

Examiner

Lisa M Caputo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 6-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 6-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Preliminary Amendment

1. Receipt is acknowledged of the preliminary amendment and drawing correction filed 12 March 2004.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Ackley et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,375,075, from hereinafter "Ackley").

Ackley teaches a method and apparatus for reading machine-readable symbols including color symbol elements. Regarding claim 6, Ackley teaches an information code (color machine-readable symbol 12) comprising a plurality of bars shown on a product (tag 12 on container 16), following a predetermined pattern of arrangement according to a conventional black and white bar code structure, said bars including at least three types of bars in such a manner that each of said three types of the bars has a reflected wavelength characteristic different from that of other bars among said three types of the bars so that the reflected wavelength characteristic the bars when combined forms a unit of displaying information. More specifically, Ackley teaches that A number of color elements 26-36 form the color symbol 12. For example, the color

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symbol 12 of FIG. 1 includes blue 26, yellow 28, red 30, green 32, white 34, and red 36 bars. (For ease of presentation, the color of each bar is represented by a letter, where B stands for blue, Y stands for yellow, R stands for red, G stands for green, and W stands for white. In use, the symbol elements 26-36 employ the actual colors, and the letters typically do not appear on the symbol 12.) The particular color machine-readable symbol 12 shown in FIG. 1 is not intended to represent any particular symbol from any particular symbology, and the invention is not limited to any particular color symbology or physical aspects of a particular symbology. For example, the symbol 12 can employ fixed width bars, instead of the varying width color bars 26-36 shown in FIG. 1. Additionally, or alternatively, the symbol 12 can employ geometrical shapes other than bars, such as hexagons, octagons, dots, squares, or arbitrary shapes. Further, the color symbol 12 can employ fewer or greater number of colors, or different colors than those shown and discussed (see Figure 1, col 2 line 58 to col 3 line 10).

Regarding claim 7, Ackley teaches that the three types of bars include a red bar 36, a green bar 32, and a blue bar 26 (see Figure 1, col 2, lines 59-60).

Regarding claim 8, Ackley teaches that the three types of bars include a white color bar 34 and another bar with color selected from a group of red, blue, and green bars. In addition, Ackley teaches that the color symbol 12 can employ different colors than those shown and discussed, which includes the conventional black color (see Figure 1, col 2 line 58 to col 3 line 10).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ackley in view of Yoshinaga (U.S. Patent No. 6,073,842). The teachings of Ackley have been discussed above.

Regarding claims 9-14, Ackley fails to specifically enumerate the use of different conventional barcodes (i.e. JAN, ITF, NW-7).

Yoshinaga discloses that examples of the normal bar code are shown in FIGS. 8A, 8B, 8C and 8D. A bar code shown in FIG. 8A is a JAN type bar code which is mainly used in the food trade. A bar code shown in FIG. 8B is an NW-7 type bar code which is mainly used in the apparel trade. A bar code shown in FIG. 8C is an ITF type bar code which is mainly used in the distribution trade. A bar code shown in FIG. 8D is a CODE 39 type bar code, which is mainly used for industrial products (see Figures 8A-8D, col 3, lines 43-50). Hence, these codes are conventional and well-known in the art to consist of 13 modules, each of which consists of 7 bars and to contain a plurality of information (i.e. a national number, manufacturer number, etc.). See also the "Description of the Related Art" section of the specification of the instant application on pages 1-2, which teaches about the conventional properties of these codes.

In view of the teaching of Yoshinaga, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to employ one of the

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conventional codes because these codes are well known to be efficient to store and be able to display data. In addition, since they are conventional, there is a standard that is upheld and the codes are able to be read by conventional, standardized readers which is favorable because the codes are more easily and universally read.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: U.S. Patent No. 5,612,524 to Sant'Anselmo et al. which discloses an identification symbol, system, and method with orientation mechanism.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Lisa M. Caputo** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-2388**. The examiner can normally be reached between the hours of 8:30AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G. Lee can be reached at **(571) 272-2398**. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 872-9306.


Communications via Internet e-mail regarding this application, other than those under 35 U.S.C. 132 or which otherwise require a signature, may be used by the applicant and should be addressed to [**lisa.caputo@uspto.gov**].

All Internet e-mail communications will be made of record in the application file. PTO employees do not engage in Internet communications where there exists a possibility that sensitive information could be identified or exchanged unless the record includes a properly signed express waiver of the confidentiality requirements of 35 U.S.C. 122. This is more clearly set forth in the Interim Internet Usage Policy published in the Official Gazette of the Patent and Trademark on February 25, 1997 at 1195 OG 89.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


LMC

November 28, 2004


DIANE I. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER